

DOCKET NO. 2343-114-27



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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF: MARK E. ZAPPI, ET AL.

ART UNIT: 1724

SERIAL NO.: 09/837,189

EXAMINER: CINTINS, I.C.

FILING DATE: APRIL 19, 2001

FOR: ON-SITE BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT OF CONTAMINATED FLUIDS

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**RESPONSE**

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the outstanding Office Action dated June 11, 2002, entry of the following Remarks is respectfully requested.

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of the above referenced application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 1-9 and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Willett et al. (U.S. Patent 5,271,691) in view of Wieser-Linhart (U.S. Patent 5,762,662). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The present invention is drawn to a method for treating a contaminated fluid comprising the steps of packing a column with a cellulose-based material, passing the contaminated fluid through the packed column, where the contaminants are adsorbed onto the cellulose-based material and when the cellulose-based material is spent, removing the spent cellulose-based